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CHILDREN'S BOOK
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The Gift of
Mr. Robert Payson
to Mary Cole
April 1842.





The crooked sixpence.



*will you let me have six pennys-worth
of your oranges:*

THE
CROOKED SIXPENCE;

OR, THE

Adventures of Little Harry.

A TALE CALCULATED TO INTEREST YOUTH,

INTERSPERSED WITH

Moral and Religious Reflections.

BY MRS. BOURNE,

AUTHORESS OF 'THE FISHERMAN'S HUT,' 'CONVERSATIONS
ON THE CHURCH CATECHISM,' &c.

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THE

Crooked Sixpence.

“OH, give me one primrose, Robert,” cried Fanny, as her brother approached the stile on which she was leaning, with his hands held together so full of those flowers he could scarcely get over it : “ Oh, give me one,” again exclaimed little Fanny ; but I am sorry to observe that Robert said, “ No, I want them all to play with myself ;” and he

pushed so hastily past his sister that she slipped down, and there she sat crying, partly from disappointment and partly from pain ; for poor little Fanny was lame, and could not get over the stile to the side on which the flowers grew. And, indeed, she never thought of trying to do so, for her mother had often desired her not, fearing she might slip in the attempt and hurt herself still worse. Robert was therefore very ill-tempered not to give the poor little girl a few of the primroses, which he had gathered.

Now it happened that two boys, John and Harry, were at work in their garden close by the spot where this passed, and they heard and saw all that took place ; and John, who

was of a very hasty temper, was so angry at Robert, that he threw down the rake he was using, and declared he would go after Robert and *make* him give up some of the flowers to his sister ; but Harry stopped him by saying that, however ill Robert had behaved, they had no right to take his flowers away ; “but,” continued he, “I will tell you what we can, and what we may do ; see here, these flowers are all our own^s ; let us gather, and give them to poor little Fanny.”

John readily agreed to this proposal, and the two boys speedily gathered each a large bunch of their prettiest spring-flowers ; which, having neatly tied with pieces of bass, they hastened to give to the little girl. The child's

tears were soon dried ; and John, wishing her good-bye, ran back to his garden ; but the more considerate Harry offered to go with her to the gate at the end of the lane, which he thought she could scarcely unfasten, should it happen to be closed, with both her hands full of flowers. And well was it for Fanny that he thought of this ; for when at a little turn of the road they came in sight of the gate, there they saw Robert scrambling, stamping, and screaming in the midst of a litter of pigs, which had at first, in an awkward rush from a neighbouring yard, knocked him and his primroses down in the dirt, whilst he was striving to push up the latch with his elbow ; and were now grunting, trampling, and routing

amongst his beloved flowers, and he was vainly endeavouring to save a few from the general devastation.

Harry could not help laughing as soon as he saw the disaster; but kind little Fanny was sorry for him, and even offered him one of her own pretty bunches to repair his loss. Robert was not in a humour to be pleased; he saw, too, that Harry thought him rightly served, and that vexed him still more; so he declared he did not like any flowers but primroses, and began to pick up some of his own mauled and dirty blossoms.

In the mean time Fanny reached home, and eagerly told her mother of the kindness of John and Harry; her mother was pleased they had been so good to her poor little lame

girl, and readily reached down a flower-pot, which she had given her a little time before, that she might amuse herself with placing flowers in it, and examining them when she could not seek for any in the fields. And she often had a bunch brought to her by some neighbour or other, for every one was fond of, and kind to the poor little girl, except, I am sorry to say, her own brother Robert; but he, foolish boy, fancied, because his mother gave more of her time and attention to his sister than to himself, that she loved her better; and therefore he was jealous of, and often rude to her. Now, this not only made his mother angry with him, but was one great reason why she gave so much of her time to

Fanny; for, had Robert been good to her, their mother could often have left them together. It would have gratified her very much to see him kind to his sister, and she would have loved him the better for being so; as it was, she was often obliged to send him out of the way, that he might not hurt Fanny in his rough careless actions, and always rejoiced when his school-hours kept him absent.

If any child who reads this, feels that he or she should not like to be so thought of, let them endeavour to be kind, obliging, and useful at home; and then they will be sure to be wished *for*, instead of wished *away*. And if you should have a brother or sister, who, from illness or

any other misfortune, calls for greater attention than yourself, instead of repining that they receive it, be thankful that you yourself do not require it; and remember that no kindness, however it may soothe, can ever quite compensate for the deprivations caused by illness, blindness, or any defect. And instead of being vexed at the time your parents bestow upon them, give some of your own leisure to them also; it will relieve and please your parents, and make them think well of you. Besides which, it is our *duty* to be kind to those who are afflicted; and like all other duties, you will find it brings its reward with it; for our Heavenly Father, who distributes his good gifts to his children much more evenly

than at the first sight may appear, has generally bestowed upon those who are not able to ramble abroad in search of amusement, a fondness for study and an ability for observation, beyond that possessed by those who are stronger and more active; you may therefore derive entertainment and even benefit from the remarks of such an one, even though much younger than yourself. And should your parents pay more attention to another than to yourself, and you are not able to discover why they do so, remember there may be reasons with which you are unacquainted; and that, at all events, your duty is plain, and that you cannot perform it steadily without drawing down a blessing from your

God. And should you be one whom He hath seen proper to afflict, remember that all His dispensations are made for the benefit of those who trust in Him. Look to Him, therefore, with confidence; He will support and comfort you under every trial, and let the certainty of this give that cheerful gentleness to your temper, which will bring you many enjoyments, besides the blessing it is in itself; for, it will make all around anxious to oblige and please you, instead of attending to you merely as a duty, and running away from you as much as they can, which will be the case if you are fretful and impatient.

Fanny had arranged all her flowers and sat down to tea with her father

and mother, when Robert came slowly in with a few dirty primroses held almost behind his back ; for he felt ashamed of them and of himself, and fully expected to find his parents displeased with him for his conduct to his sister ; but he soon found by their manner towards him that the good-tempered little girl had never mentioned what had happened. His mother only noticed the dirt on his clothes and hands, and when he had brushed and washed it off, she gave him his tea as usual. Robert could not but feel the kindness of his sister, and to show that he did so, as soon as the meal was over, he ran to his own little private drawer, and brought out a pretty little book of tales, with pictures in

it, which he often before churlishly refused to shew to her, but with which they now pleasantly amused themselves for the evening; their parents were delighted to see Robert so kind to Fanny. And do not you think she was much happier than she would have been, had she caused her mother to punish her brother? And this would have made him feel still more jealous of her. Learn, my dear children, to bear with each other's faults and tempers, remembering that we all have our errors to be pardoned, and believe me, gentleness and forbearance are much more likely to produce kindness in return than a contrary conduct, which must keep up the unpleasant feelings of anger and irritation both in your own

minds, and in the minds of those who have offended you.

The following are the Tales in the book, which Robert shewed to his sister : —

TALE THE FIRST.

How to judge whether your time is well or ill spent.

“ William,” said Mrs. Myers to her son a boy of ten years of age, “ why are you not gone to school ? It is past nine o’clock.” She had entered the room in which he was, and found him trying with marbles to knock down an arch of bricks he had just built. Part of this feat he had

accomplished, and in consequence had scattered the bricks in various directions.

He replied, "Oh! mamma, the chimes have scarcely done playing yet, and I shall be there before the boys have taken their places, and that will be as well, you know, as if I had been there an hour sooner."

"I do wish," said his mother very earnestly, "that you would endeavor to cure yourself of this foolish habit of putting off every thing you have to do till the last minute; if this be not conquered whilst you are young, believe me it will be the cause of much regret to you when old; and in the mean time be constantly leading you into trouble and difficulty.

"Can you, for instance, if you do

get to your place as soon as others, can you say your lessons as well without having a minute to look over them, or even to think of them?"

William was silent; for he knew he had often lost a place in his class from the very circumstance of having been hurried until he forgot what he had before perfectly remembered. Whilst Mrs. Myers was speaking, William had been hastily collecting together the bricks, to put them into their box; as he had sent the marbles at the bridge from all directions, the bricks had flown into every corner of the room, and he could not find the one which was used as the key-stone to slip in at the top of the arch and keep them all together. He had been

creeping under the chairs and tables in search of it. He now got up with a melancholy exclamation that he could not find it any where, his face flushed, and he looked grave. His mamma kindly told him to get his things and go to school, and she would have the key-stone sought for, but to remember in future not to play with things which wanted so much putting away, when it was near school-time ; and not to scatter them about so much at any time, for there was a great risk of their being broken or lost, or of some one being thrown down by stepping upon them. He had now collected his book, &c. and was going, when his mamma pointed to his hands, and shaking her head, asked if they would do for school?

He acknowledged they would not, and ran off to get them washed ; all this wasted time, and when he had got half way to school he was obliged to return for his pencil and Indian rubber, which he had left on a table in a corner of the room, when he so foolishly began to build the bridge. He got back as quickly as he could, but, alas, the second quarter had sounded before he reached the school-door, which, to his great surprise, he found shut. Whilst he was trying to account for so unusual a circumstance, thinking whether he had ever heard any thing of a holiday, and feeling very angry with himself for not having been there sooner, an old woman, who had the charge of keeping the room in order, saw, and came up to him.

“ O, Master Myers,” she said, “ is that you ? Why, the master waited at least ten minutes for you, and then he said he could not stay any longer ; he and all the young gentlemen are gone to the town, to see somebody make a dead cock crow, and a dead rabbit walk ; if you would not have been frightened at such doings, and would have liked to have seen them, it’s a pity you were not here sooner.”

Poor William agreed with this feeling most sincerely, and having thanked the old woman for her information, he returned home grieved and mortified ; for he now recollected that his Master had told the boys some days before, there was a gentleman coming to a town, distant about half

a mile from the village where they lived, who gave lectures upon galvanism, and who had agreed to give a lecture soon upon that subject, when he promised to introduce many experiments interesting and amusing to children. He had made an arrangement to that effect with several schools in the town and neighbourhood; but, from other engagements, he could not well fix the day until the evening before that upon which the lecture was to take place.

The Master had therefore warned the boys that, if any of them were too late in coming to school, whenever the day arrived, they must be left behind, as the lecturer could not wait. The thoughts of this lecture had made William very punctual for

a few days, but unfortunately, or rather I should say fortunately, if it helped to cure him of so bad a habit as procrastination, the gentleman with his galvanic battery had been detained longer at other places than he expected, and William had returned to his old habits of putting off till the last minute; and we now see the disappointment which it occasioned him. When he reached home and explained to his mamma what had caused his return, she entered into his feelings of regret for the entertainment and information he had lost, but at the same time she took the opportunity of strongly impressing upon his mind the dangerous consequences of a fault, which *he* was disposed to consider much too lightly.

“You see my dear William,” she continued, “that it hath made you lose not merely a pleasure, but one which, being connected with useful knowledge, would have helped to open your mind, and have given you a reason for thinking of the two together, which is of more consequence than at present you can be aware of.”

William looked as if he did not quite understand what his mother meant.

“I will endeavor,” said she, “to explain myself more clearly. I have heard you speak of two of your schoolfellows, John Hutchinson and George Holkham; which of these two do you think likes learning the best?”

“ Oh ! mamma, George Holkham, to be sure.”

“ And why ? ” inquired Mrs. Myers.

“ Because he learns so quick, and understands so well what he is about, that it is all pleasure to him ; besides which, he always gets praise and prizes, and is at the head of the school ; whilst poor John never can understand the meaning of his lessons, so that he can have no pleasure in them, you know, mamma ; besides which, he is obliged to work at them whilst we are at play, and yet he is always at the bottom of his class, and is very often punished, poor fellow.”

“ Then which, do you imagine, will think with the most pleasure of study and school, when they have

left it? And which, do you think, the most likely to improve himself by reading and studying?"

"George Holkham, mamma; and he intends to go to College and be a lawyer, that it may be his business to read and study; whilst John Hutchinson declares he will never open a book, if he can help it, after he has left school."

"Poor boy, I am sorry for him," said Mrs. Myers; "but this will assist me in explaining to you what I mean by thinking of, or connecting knowledge and pleasure together. George Holkham has a pleasure in acquiring knowledge, and therefore he loves it: John Hutchinson finds nothing but trouble in it, and accordingly dislikes it: yet it is not

impossible, that if the lecture of to-day amuses him, he may take more pleasure in learning than he has ever done before, when he sees that it leads to the discovery of what is entertaining. But has he no friend at home, who would kindly explain his lessons to him, and so render them more easy?"

"No, mamma; he has been sent here to go to school, that he may be in the country; and he lodges with an old woman who was his nurse."

"Are you not in the same class?"

"Yes, mamma, but he is at the bottom, and I am nearly at the top."

His mamma smiled as she replied, "Still I suppose your lessons are the same?"

"Oh, yes, to be sure they are."

“Then I think, my dear, that if you were to bring this poor boy home with you for an hour or so, occasionally, to study your lessons together, it might be serviceable to you both. You have told me that he is good-tempered, speaks fondly of his parents, and of his brothers and sisters, and does not seem a stupid boy, although he finds his book so difficult to comprehend ; now *you* do not find much difficulty in that, I think.”

“No, mamma ; besides, you always *talk* my lessons over with me,” replied William.

“I dare say,” said Mrs. Myers, “*that* does make them easier to you ; and the reason poor John finds so much difficulty in them, may be

because he has no one to talk them over with him, as you call it. Suppose you ask Master Holkham and him to come to tea with you this afternoon? I should like to *talk* over with them the lecture of the morning."

William was much pleased with the proposal, and went to school in the afternoon in better spirits in consequence of it. His master did not punish him for his absence in the morning, but seriously pointed out to him what he had lost, owing to his habit of lingering to the last moment, and bade him try to remember it through his life; and it might be made the means of curing him of a fault, which, if indulged in, *must* be injurious to him as long as

he lived ; and *might*, and most probably *would*, prevent his getting forward in any line of life, whatever it might be, he should be placed in.

“ I believe,” continued he, “ it was Lord Nelson who said, that he owed the success of all his plans, humanly speaking, to being always ready a quarter of an hour before the time fixed. And let your pursuits be what they will, to be ready a quarter of an hour sooner than is necessary, gives time for arranging your ideas, and for recalling to your minds any thing which you may have forgotten, and which must have been neglected, if there had not been those few minutes left for thinking.”

After school, William took his two young friends home, first going with

them to obtain leave for them to go. In the course of the evening George, who was a clever boy, gave a very amusing account of the lecture of the morning ; he spoke with drollery and great good-humour of the capers of the boys, when they touched the galvanic battery ; he detailed the bleating of the poor calf's head, and of its biting a piece of candle ; also, of a dead rabbit's leaping off a table, and of a cock shaking its wings ; of the fusion of gold-leaf, and of the decomposition of water.

As he spoke of these things, John, who was a shy boy, ventured now and then to make a remark or ask a question, which convinced Mrs. Myers that he was neither stupid nor indolent ; and only wanted to

have his lessons more thoroughly explained to him to be pleased with them. She knew that he was very punctual and steady in his attendance at school; this was what made her think he would be an advantageous companion for William, who, we have seen, was not quite so attentive to hours as he might have been.

Mrs. Myers was a widow, with no other child than William, who was now about ten years of age, and she felt anxious he should have a companion or two, to induce him to take more active exercise out of school hours than he was inclined to do. This had made her wish to see these two boys; George, because she knew him to be clever and well informed; and John, out of compassion

to the poor friendless child, of whose difficulties, in regard to his lessons, William had often told her, and who, she justly feared, would take quite a dislike to any sort of application, and possibly become an idle dissipated character in consequence. Through the course of this evening, Mrs. Myers carefully watched the conversation of these boys, that she might judge whether they were such as she should choose her own son to become more intimate with ; for she well knew how much the character is formed by those with whom we associate, and it was her constant prayer that her child might be preserved from the temptation of evil companions, and encouraged and assisted to walk in the right path,

by the conduct of those with whom she was in any way connected. Mrs. Myers was gratified by the remarks and manners of both the boys ; and when in the course of conversation, John acknowledged his dislike to his lessons, from the difficulty he so often found in understanding them, she proposed that he should come for an hour or two every evening, to study them together with William, and offered to assist them whenever she could ; he accepted the invitation with animation, and said he thought if he might read and talk them over in that manner, they would not be half the trouble to him ; and then he might perhaps in time like his book as well as George and William did.

Mrs. Myers was pleased with the good sense of this remark ; for she had rather feared that he might have thought coming to learn lessons was something like adding to his school-hours ; she therefore strongly encouraged his hopes of improvement, if he exerted himself ; and that evening he steadily read over what was to be repeated the next day, and then Mrs. Myers found he was not in the habit of looking at his lessons till the morning ; when she told him she was not surprised he did not repeat them well, if he gave himself so little time to understand ; but he declared that if ever he learnt them the night before, he was sure to forget them by the school-time ; so it was of no use.

Mrs. Myers smiled : “ I should

think," said she, " the reason of that is, that, not being very fond of your lessons, you learn them rather to get quit of them, and not to think about them ; so when they are what you call *learnt*, and what I call *got off*, you put your books and your lessons aside together, and trouble yourself no more about them, until they trouble you by not being at hand, when you wish to say them.

John laughed and answered, that was certainly very often the case ; but he could not tell exactly what Mrs. Myers meant by *learning* and *getting off*. Were they not the same things ?

" Not quite I think," said Mrs. Myers, " but," continued she, " this will explain my meaning, if you will

listen to it." And she read the following lines on the difference between learning a lesson, and merely getting it by rote : —

“ My lesson's learnt,” young Harry cried,
And threw his book away ;
Whilst George ten minutes more applied,
Which Harry gave to play.

The morning came, and George with joy
Received the meed of praise ;
But vainly Harry, careless boy,
To repeat his task essays.

“ I'm sure I learnt it well last night,”
He spoke with fretful look ;
“ Could then have said it, if I might,”
His head the tutor shook.

“ Perhaps,” said he, “ 'twas gained by rote,
Its meaning still unknown ;
And slightly o'er the memory float,
Words got by sound alone :

“ To *learn* your lessons, you must try
To understand them well ;
Then if the words from memory fly,
Their meaning you can tell :

“ Useless that lesson, which must be
Repeated ere you sleep ;
Confusion in that mind we see,
Which cannot clearly keep

“ Its various tasks to ponder o'er
The knowledge they impart ;
Bidding their truths the head to store ;
Their precepts mend the heart.”

The boys all declared they would remember the story of Harry and George, when they felt inclined to defer studying their lessons until the morning ; then after a game of play they separated.

The next morning John Hutchinson surprised his master and his

school-fellows by saying his lessons perfectly, and in a way as if he understood it; and having once experienced the pleasure of being praised, he was anxious to continue to deserve it, and he was very regular in his evening visits to William.

George likewise frequently joined them, and many a pleasant hour was spent by them, both in study and in play, which was recollected with much pleasure many years afterwards. And Mrs. Myers taught them that it was by this they must judge of their own actions, whether they were right or wrong, innocent or improper; and ask themselves this question, — Shall I look back with pleasure, or with regret, to the way in which I have spent my time?

TALE THE SECOND.

*A good-natured action often proves
a comfort to ourselves.*

“Oh, Anna, Anna!” cried little Ellen Ross, as she ran hastily in at the cottage-door, where her young friend lived, “I am in such a hurry, do come with me to school directly.”

“You are in a hurry indeed, I think, Ellen,” replied Anna, as she good-humouredly arose, put away her doll, and reached down her shawl and bonnet; “it is not school-time yet, why are you so early?”

“ I will tell you,” answered Ellen, scarcely allowing her companion time to take her work-bag, ere she caught hold of her arm to draw her out of the house.

As soon as they were in the lane leading to the school, she began to talk and walk very fast, so fast, indeed, that Anna could hardly either keep up with her, or understand her.

“ O, Anna,” she said, “ do you know next Wednesday-week will be grandpapa’s birthday ? How I love grandpapa ! Now you know I am knitting a pair of stockings for him ; and he has just promised that if I finish them by his birthday, he will give me a shilling, and take me with him to the town, where he is going on business. O, I shall be so happy,”

continued she, “for I am to ride with grandpapa in his gig, and to go to my aunt’s to play with her baby. Grandpapa says I may spend my shilling as I like; so I shall buy a ball, and a book, and a pair of shoes for my doll, and some cakes, and a shuttlecock; you know we knocked the feather out of mine yesterday. Then the Panorama is open, and the wax-work, and I am to see both; and glass-blowing, and pin-making, and—but Anna,” said Ellen, suddenly stopping short in the midst of her conversation, “you look grave; will it not be delightful?”

“I dare say it will,” replied poor little Anna with a sigh, “and I am sure I hope you will be very happy, but you know I shall not be there.”

“O dear,” said Ellen, “I had forgotten that,—how I wish—”

“Well, never mind,” rejoined the good-tempered child, “I am glad you are going to have so much pleasure; and you must tell me all you have seen, and shew me all you have bought, and I shall enjoy that, you know.”

“Oh!” exclaimed Ellen joyfully, “I know what I can do; I will ask grandpapa to give sixpence to you, and sixpence to me, and take us both; the gig will hold us, and I do think he will.”

“Oh,” cried Anna, “that would be joy indeed; but I will not have any part of your shilling, for do you know,” and she looked very wise, “I am afraid you have thought of

more things to get with it than it will buy."

"Oh, never mind that," answered Ellen, "I am sure I would rather have you with me than buy any of them."

Just as she spoke they reached the school-door, and remarking that she must lose all by being idle, she seated herself on a low bench, and took out her knitting. They were the first who had arrived, and Ellen, turning to Anna, said, "let us now measure and see how much there is to be done; and then I can fix how much I must do every day to finish it in time."

They measured accordingly, and found she had knit down to the middle of the ankle. Ellen knew

there were seven days in a week, and a week and two days to her grandpapa's birthday ; so she divided her work into nine parts, and thought she could readily finish it : just then, however, Anna exclaimed, " Oh, Ellen ! you have forgotten Sunday."

" So I had," answered Ellen, " and I would rather not go at all than do a loop on Sunday. Well it is only working a little harder every day ; let us measure again."

So far all was well ; but, alas, alas ! when they came to measure again, Ellen was sure the stocking did not seem so long as before ; and she was also sure that it was wider than the other. She tried to stretch it, but still as she let it loose, the provoking stocking would fall back to its former

size ; at last, in a pet, she gave a hasty pull, when the stocking gave way just where she had finished taking in. You may imagine the dismay of poor Ellen at this moment ; nor will it surprise my young readers to hear, that both she and Anna burst into tears.

Just at that moment Mrs. Seymour entered the school ; she was a woman well suited to direct children ; she had a youthfulness of heart, if I may so term it, which enabled her to enter into all their feelings ; and they loved her for the kindness, with which she assisted them in every little scheme of innocent enjoyment, as much as they respected her for the knowledge she possessed, and

pleasant intelligible manner in which she imparted it to them.

When this lady observed the situation of the two little girls, she kindly called them to her, to inquire into the cause of what she saw, fearing the stocking had suffered in some juvenile quarrel, well knowing that the best dispositions, when left to themselves, are but too apt to yield to evil impulses. She felt, therefore, much relieved by the simple account, which Ellen, with some difficulty, gave of the business ; and as the poor child concluded by saying, "Now, instead of going to the town, and getting grandpapa to take Anna also, he will be angry with me, for destroying his stockings."

Mrs. Seymour smiled : “ Not quite destroyed I hope, my dear,” she said ; “ a stocking is not like an egg, or a piece of glass, which, once broken, can never be repaired without blemish ; I will try presently whether I cannot assist you. In the mean time, however, let us begin properly the duties of the day ; remembering that unless we do so, we never can expect to prosper in any of our undertakings.”

As she spoke, she arose from her seat and looked affectionately around upon all her pupils, who were by this time assembled. She then knelt down, and in a short, but earnest prayer, requested the blessing of their Almighty Father, for his Son's sake, upon them all.

O, gracious LORD of all !
Thy little children see,
And mercifully call
Our wandering hearts to Thee.

O let thy powerful grace,
Our souls' attention draw ;
And on our memories trace
Thy never-changing law.

Let faith, and hope, and love,
To dwell in us, unite ;
Then raise our souls above,
To dwell in endless light.

To Heaven, when death is come,
We shall with joy repair,
And find a happy home ;
For Jesus Christ is there.

We trust, O gracious LORD,
That we Thy face shall see ;
For Thou hast given Thy word,
" There shall my servants be."

The daily lessons then proceeded, and when they were so arranged that the children could go on without Mrs. Seymour's constant attention,

she again called Ellen to her, and taking up the unfortunate stocking, she pointed out to her how much better her time would have been employed in adding to the length of it by knitting on, than in vain attempts to stretch it; "And this," she continued, "is often the case; we are too apt to waste that time, in endeavouring to discover an easier method of doing something, which properly employed, would have enabled us to do it in the usual manner, and to which we are often at last obliged to resort with less leisure, and added difficulties. And these difficulties sometimes appear so great that we fancy, as you did in the case of this poor stocking, they are insurmountable. But, if the right way

would have been the best at first, it will be so always ; and you see," she continued, " what has already been accomplished by perseverance."

Thus saying, she held up the upper part of the stocking, the loops of which she had now taken up by means of a finer needle, and replaced upon those with which Ellen had been knitting, ready to be proceeded with. The part which had been rent off, Ellen, with Anna's assistance and under Mrs. Seymour's guidance, had already wound into a ball again fit for use ; and Ellen saw with surprise how much of her difficulty had been overcome by a little exercise of patience and method. This gave her spirits to continue her exertions, which were, I am happy

to say, rewarded by complete success. The stockings were finished by grandpapa's birth-day, and he, pleased with the attachment of Ellen to her young friend, agreed to her request of taking her with them, and gave her a shilling also. The day passed pleasantly, and the little girls had much enjoyment during it, but Ellen acknowledged to Mrs. Seymour, upon her making the inquiry, that she had not received all the gratification she had anticipated; her shilling had not bought all she wished for; the wax-work had not appeared so natural as she expected; the panorama was so full she could not see well; showers prevented her going to all the places she wanted to go to; the streets were dirty; and

the people pushed her about so, that she confessed she was very glad to find herself seated quietly at home again in the evening.

“It is seldom, my dear girl,” said Mrs. Seymour, “that our pleasures equal our expectations; it is best therefore not to expect too much; we are then more prepared for a disappointment, and we the more enjoy, I think, every thing that we do meet with calculated to gratify us. It was, however, no doubt, a real pleasure to you, when the showers and dirt prevented your going about, and your grandpapa was engaged with his business, to have Anna with you to talk to.”

“Oh yes,” exclaimed Ellen, “that made many things pleasant, which

would otherwise have been disagreeable.”

“ A good-natured action,” replied Mrs. Seymour, “ generally brings its own reward ; and the company of a friend assists us to bear evils, and increases our enjoyments.”.....

We will leave Robert and Fanny now they are so happily employed, and pay a visit to the cottage in which John and Harry resided ; it was situated just at the turn of the lane of which I have before spoken, and belonged to the mother of John ; she was a widow, and maintained herself and only child by the produce of her garden and her knitting ; she was an industrious, kind-hearted woman ; she knew the blessing bestowed upon the “ widow’s mite,”

and strove, as far as lay in her power, to do good to others ; in consequence of this feeling, she had taken into her house an old friend, her husband, and their only son Harry ; hoping that Harry's father might receive benefit from a little change of air, for he was suffering from the effects of a rheumatic fever, which had deprived him of the use of his limbs ; he had formerly possessed some little property, but sickness and misfortune had exhausted it ; and he with his wife and child, were now actually reduced to beggary.

In this melancholy state, widow Mann took them in for a week or two, till they could think of some plan to procure a livelihood ; and they were all sitting round her hum-

ble, but hospitable little table, on the evening of which we are speaking, when the postman brought a letter for Martha Hand, (this was the name of Harry's mother ;) it came from her sister, who was a dressmaker in a town at some little distance, and who sent two pounds, all, she said, that she could afford at present, but she trusted that would be sufficient to take her sister and her husband to Birmingham, where she felt assured he could get advice and assistance, which would restore his limbs ; and that, if they would let her know when they got there, she would in the course of a week or ten days, when she was to be paid a bill now due to her, send at least as much more. This letter gave Martha and

her husband much to think about and to consider : the hope of relief held out to him was a strong inducement to them to undertake the journey, which so kind an offer thus unexpectedly put in their power ; but their son, what would they do with him ? his board and lodgings, at such a place as Birmingham, would so materially add to their expenses, that their money would be very soon exhausted ; for, if they went into a very poor place, and if the father could not get something nourishing to eat, the change must do him harm instead of good ; the widow saw what was passing in their minds, and quickly relieved their anxiety, by proposing to keep Harry during their absence.

“He is,” said she, with that true kindness, which strives to make another feel easy in receiving a benefit; “he is,” continued she, “very useful to me, and he sets such a good example to my thoughtless Johnny, that you know we have never had the gardener a day since you came; and yet how nice the garden has been kept by these two lads.”

“Oh,” observed John, “it is so much more pleasant to work there with Harry, than with that cross old man.”

His mother shook her head, “I fear you give him cause enough for crossness, but you should strive to do all you can; for it runs away with a deal of the profits to pay him every time he comes.”

“ I will try to work well for you, mother,” answered John affectionately, “ but I do like to get away from him, he scolds me so ; and I do not much like working there by myself.”

“ That is very natural,” answered his mother, “ but remember there are many things that we ought to do which we may not like ; yet we shall be sure to find pleasure in thinking of them afterwards, if we have done them properly ; and if we neglect them, they will be a grief to us for a long time.”

“ I am sure,” said Harry, “ John always works well when I see him, and then he is so good-tempered ; he has given me a part of his garden to call my own as long as I stay.”

“ You see,” said the widow, turning to her friends, “ how well these lads agree ; if you will leave yours with me, I am sure we shall get on very well ; for I know he earns more than he eats, and you know he sleeps with John, so hislodging is nothing.”

Harry's parents felt the kindness of this offer too forcibly to hesitate ; but Harry, much as he liked his friend John, and preferred a country to a town-life, could not hear of being left behind without regret, particularly as he thought he might have been of use to his mother in a strange place, either in waiting upon his lame father, or in going errands ; but he knew his parents were the best judges, and therefore, though he looked very grave, he did not

tease them by making any objection to their plans. Oh, how I wish every child would act in the same manner ; how sorry I have been to see some children worry and vex their parents by entreaties to be kept or taken with them, when they have been told it was not proper or convenient ; now such little boys and girls ought to reflect, that parents always like to have their children with them when they are good, and not when they are naughty, and then they would know, that making themselves troublesome is not the way to make their presence desirable ; besides which, their parents must know better than they can what is right or wrong for them, and they ought cheerfully to agree

to it, and that is the way to be good, beloved, and happy. Harry's parents did not like to leave so affectionate and dutiful a child, and his mother felt he would have been a great comfort to her ; but she knew also she could not afford to take him, and therefore she gratefully accepted the widow's offer to keep him with her, and she thanked her God sincerely, that he had raised her up such a steady friend in her troubles. As the journey was now determined upon, all that remained to be done was to fix on the time, and the best method of performing it : some degree of ease and comfort must be procured for the invalid ; but in other respects they must incur as little expense as possible, and try

to get into cheap lodgings as soon as they arrived ; it was but a dreary prospect, going thus to a strange place with so little money, and consequently with so little chance of comfort ; but the hope of procuring relief to the sufferer supported them all. Little do they know of the value of health, strength, and ease, who have never been deprived of them. Do not, my dear children, wish for any foolish indulgences in childhood, which may make you grow up weak and feeble men and women ; and be very, very thankful for the enjoyment of health and the use of your limbs, and shew your gratitude for such blessings by your readiness, whenever it lies in your power, to help those who are de-

prived of them. When Martha began to calculate what she might spend and what she might spare, she took out of her pocket an old-fashioned nutmeg-grater, and emptied on her lap what little money she had possessed before the arrival of the two pounds; a little silver and some halfpence were all her store, amongst them was a CROOKED SIXPENCE, which had been given to Harry by an uncle of his, who was a sailor, when he left England, a year before Harry saw and knew it.

“Oh, mother,” he exclaimed, “do give me my sixpence.”

His mother looked at her husband as she answered, “I do not mind giving it to him, if you have no objection; for really his uncle said so much

about its being his own, and joked so about the luck of it, that I should never feel satisfied with myself, if I should be tempted to spend it, and I do not think he would part with it for trash."

"That I would not, indeed, mother," exclaimed Harry.

"Well, well," said his father, "Let him take it then, and remember," added he with a smile, "that as long as you keep it, you will never be without money."

Harry tried to smile also ; he took the sixpence in his hand, then looking at his parents, he said in rather a hesitating tone, "But father, mother, I do not promise not to spend this money ; only not to spend it foolishly."

“ I like that openness, Harry,” said his father, “ take the money, it is your own, and do what you like with it.”

“ Thank you,” said Harry, as he put it carefully into his pocket. It took but a short time to prepare Martha and her husband for their journey ; they had little to take with them, and not anything except their child to leave behind ; the next day therefore, saw them seated in a waggon, which passed the widow’s door, the owner of which had known them in their days of prosperity, and had now endeavoured to make his waggon as comfortable as he could for the poor invalid, by heaping together a quantity of straw for him to rest on. Harry assisted to

place him as much at his ease as possible; his parents invoked a blessing upon his head, and upon that of his kind guardian, who stood silently praying that this journey might be for good. The waggon moved slowly away; Harry watched till it was out of sight; and then, silent and sad, he turned into the garden, and seating himself in a little arbour, he rested his arms on the side of the seat, and hiding his face within them, burst into tears. He remained in this position for some time, till suddenly recollecting that his parents had often told him it was sinful to give way to foolish repining, and that the best cure for grief,—next to a firm reliance on the wisdom and goodness of HIM who rules the

universe, and in whose eyes the lowliest of his creatures was as much regarded as those in the highest situations, — was active and useful employment; he raised his head, wiped his eyes, and drawing his sixpence out of his pocket, looked upon it for some some time as if deeply studying its value; then quietly replacing it, he walked thoughtfully towards the house.

Some of my readers perhaps have sixpences, shillings, or half-crowns to spend or squander at their pleasure, and they may look with surprise, and even contempt upon poor Harry and his CROOKED SIXPENCE; but if they read my little tale to the end, they will learn of what real importance a sixpence or shilling may be to peo-

ple in his rank of life. The small village, at which these different families resided, was about two miles from the city of Coventry, to which place John and Harry had frequently taken fruit, flowers, and vegetables, to those who ordered them from the poor, but much respected widow Mann.

Early one morning a man driving a cart loaded with oranges through the streets of this town, was accosted by a young boy dressed in clean, but coarse garments, and who held a small basket in his hand.

“Will you let me have sixpenny-worth of your oranges, Sir?” said the lad; the man counted seven into the little basket, which was held up for them, received in return a *Crooked*.

Sixpence, and pursued his way, whilst our friend Harry returned to the village with an anxious and throbbing heart. As soon as he entered the widow's cottage, he carefully placed his oranges in the window; and then, according to promise, went to gather a few wild flowers to put into the neat little basket, which he had borrowed from Fanny to take, as she laughingly said, to market. Harry had not laid out his sixpence without much thought, or without consulting his friends, but he had often heard the village-children wish that some one there sold oranges; and he had been trusted by them with pence to buy some for them when he went to the town: this he told the widow; she thought the six-

pence might be made of use in this manner, and certainly could be of none whilst it remained in Harry's pocket ; she therefore rather encouraged the scheme, and kindly offered to let his oranges have a place amongst her greens, and to sell as many of them as she could. Harry's hopes were not disappointed ; in the course of that day and the next all his stock was disposed of, and he possessed sevenpence : the odd penny he laid carefully by, and hastened with the sixpenny-worth of halfpence to make a fresh purchase ; these went as soon as the others, and he had now twopence in store ; this, at the end of a week amounted to threepence, and he thought he would take that also the next time he went to town,

and see if the man would let him have a little one, a very little one over, that he might give it to his friend Fanny, who still continued kindly to lend him her pretty basket.

This was the fourth time Harry had stopped the man with his cart, and the latter began to be rather surprised at seeing a boy like him so frequently buy what appeared too few for sale, and yet was evidently more than he could afford to eat in the time ; when, therefore, he now came up to him, and after paying as usual sixpence for seven, offered his remaining threepence, with a timid request that he might have one little one into the bargain ; the man said to him,

“ Why, my lad, I think you must

be very fond of oranges to eat such numbers as you do."

"Oh," cried Harry hastily, "I have never eaten one yet."

"Indeed," said the man in surprise, "may I ask then what you do with them all?"

Harry colored, but he felt there was nothing wrong in what he had done; so he told the man the exact truth, even to the crooked sixpence, and the borrowed basket, to pay for the loan of which he had just been asking for a little orange over his number. The man was pleased with the gratitude and frankness of the boy, and giving him two very nice oranges over his number, wished him good luck with his bargain. Harry hastened home in high delight, and

having told his tale to John and his mother, ran down the lane to give the basket, with an orange in it, back to little Fanny. He stopped before he jumped over the stile, to cover the orange with a few primroses. Harry found Fanny's mother busy ironing, for she took in washing; her father was gone out to his daily work, Robert was at school, and Fanny herself sat beside her mother, hemming a handkerchief. The moment the latter saw Harry, she raised herself off her little chair, exclaiming, "Oh, thank you, thank you, Harry, for bringing me more pretty flowers."

"Nay," said Harry, as he put the basket into her extended hand, "it is I who must thank you for lending me your pretty basket."

He had scarcely finished his sentence before Fanny, who was eagerly collecting the primroses, called out, "Oh, Harry, look, here is an orange you have forgotten to take out."

"I know there is an orange, Fanny," replied he, kindly stooping to kiss the little girl, "but I did not forget it; I left it there on purpose for you, and I hope you will like it."

Fanny looked up doubtingly at her mother, who answered for her.

"Thank you truly for your kindness to my child, Harry, but I cannot let her rob you. I have been very sorry I could not afford to let her buy one of you; but I have promised she shall have one, when I take home these clothes; so keep your orange, my good lad, for I know

you are anxious to raise money for a blessed purpose."

"But," said Harry, "you will not rob me by letting Fanny take this, for it is her own ; it was given to me for her, and another was given me for myself, because I asked one for her."

"What can you mean?" exclaimed both Fanny and her mother.

Harry laughingly told them of his having asked for a very little orange to pay for the loan of the basket, and of the man's having given him two fine ones, one for Fanny, and one for himself. Fanny's mother no longer refused to let her take it, which she did with high delight ; and Harry ran back to the widow's to see of what use he could be in the garden.

Fanny let her orange remain in the basket till Robert returned from school, when eagerly calling to him as he entered the door, she said :

“You pleased me one day with your pretty book ; I think I have got something will please you now,” and holding up the orange, she asked her mother to cut it in two, between Robert and herself ; Robert, who perfectly recollected all the adventures of the day, to which Fanny alluded, was so struck by her kindness, that he came to her, and as he took the half orange out of her hand, he kissed her cheek and whispered, “I will always try to please you, Fanny.”

Oh, how gratifying to the mother it was to see her children thus happy together !

Fanny and Robert each cut off a small portion of their orange, that their father and mother might taste also : where there is but little, kindness can only be shewn in trifles ; but it is wonderful how such trifles cause and increase affection.

In the evening of this day, as John and Harry were sitting with their books and slates, endeavouring to improve the little knowledge they had gained at school, Harry in the days of his parent's prosperity, and John in the course of the winter before, when his mother had contrived, whilst there was little to do in the garden, to pay for a quarter's instruction for him, — whilst, as I said, they were sitting thus employed, and the widow knitting, they were surprised

by the entrance of a man with a basket on his arm. Harry directly knew him to be his friend of the oranges, and rose with a smile to meet him; the man shook him by the hand as he said, "Well, my lad, I am come to see how you get on with your retail-trade; not all sold yet I see," as he glanced his eye towards the window.

"Oh, no," said Harry, "I shall think myself well off, if they all go to-morrow."

The man then turned to the mistress of the house, and said, "I was pleased with the manners of this lad, and if you will let me sit myself and my basket down, I will tell you what thought brought me here."

Harry eagerly reached him a chair,

and the man sitting down, continued :
“ I thought that one, who shewed so much gratitude for such a trifle as the loan of a basket, must be an honest lad, and likely to deal truly by any one who employed him ; so I thought I would come up this evening to make a proposal to him, and I shall be glad if you have no objection to it. I have brought up this basket of oranges, for the sale of which I would allow him a shilling ; but then he must get you to give it standing-room.”

“ And that I will do willingly,” said widow Mann ; “ and I thank you heartily for your kindness to the boy ; for he is a good lad and deserves what he earns for the use he means to make of it.”

“Why, mistress,” said the man, “I shall like to be of use to him, and I am glad I met with him, for I think we may help each other; this is rather an out-of-the-way place, it would not answer for me to come here with my cart, and yet there are several good houses about, and I’m thinking I would have you sell the oranges at the same price that I do; I will take care you have nice fresh ones, and perhaps the gentry in the neighbourhood may come here for their dozens at a time, instead of sending farther off. And now,” said the man, as he uncovered his basket, “if I have judged you rightly, you will not be sorry to have these two or three to share with your friends,” and he lifted out a few, which were

rather spotted. Harry's eyes sparkled with delight; for he had often felt as if there was a sort of greediness in keeping all his oranges to himself, though he never thought of tasting one of them. The orangeman again shook Harry by the hand, and wishing him good luck, and that he might soon bring him an empty basket, said good bye to John and his mother; and left them to eat his oranges and to talk of himself. The expectations, which they formed in regard to the neighbouring families, were not disappointed; as soon as it was known that widow Mann sold oranges, many sent for some to try them, and as the man had kept his promise, and given Harry very good ones, orders came so fast that

the basket was soon empty, and Harry set off merrily with it hanging on his arm, to Coventry. Gladly he paid the money he had received into the hand of the orange-man, and received a shilling back with another well-filled basket ; in which two or three damaged ones were not forgotten. Harry then set off to return home ; but he soon found that it was more difficult to carry a full basket than an empty one ; and though he had been very unwilling to allow that the weight was at all beyond his strength, he now began to fear he must take many rests before he could reach the village ; luckily for him, just at this time he was seen by the friendly waggoner, who had taken his parents to Birmingham ; this man

had called once or twice to tell Harry, first of their safe arrival at that place, and that his father had hardly been so much fatigued as they had feared, then to say they had got comfortable lodgings, and that his father was better : these had been pleasant tidings to the affectionate son, who was now labouring hard to be able to keep his parents ; little aware, however, how very much that help was needed. As soon as the waggoner saw him, he called out to him to inquire what he was doing there, and what he had got in that heavy basket. When he had heard his story, he took the basket from him, and, putting it into the waggon, greatly to the relief of Harry's arms, told him he would take it to the cottage for him ;

and that as he knew his times of passing that way, if he had the luck to have his basket filled again, and would be at a place he mentioned with it, he would take it home for him always.

Harry gratefully thanked him and walked by his side to the village, asking many questions about his parents; at length he took out his shilling and gave it to the waggoner, with a request that he would take it to his mother, and tell her how well he was going on; this the man readily promised to do, and lifting the basket down for him at the door, wished him good bye and pursued his way. In the mean time, poor Martha Hand was suffering terribly from anxiety and dread; her hus-

band had, as the waggoner said, improved in his health, and felt great hopes that he should in time recover the use of his limbs, at least in some degree ; but the nourishing food, which she was obliged to procure for him, together with the many additional expenses unavoidable in a strange place, had exhausted all the money sent her by her sisters ; and she had as yet received no further remittance. Day after day she went to the post-office, in the vain hope of finding a letter ; the last time that she had done so, she must have opened the letter to get at the contents before she could have paid the postage of it. Again disappointed and almost overcome by the idea of what must be the consequence to

her poor husband, she had scarcely power to offer up her prayers to Heaven for succour, as she passed with slow and weary steps along the street : suddenly she recollected the waggoner, and that this was the day on which he came to Birmingham. She determined to seek him, and, confiding her melancholy situation to him, ask him, though with a heavy heart, to take them back to the widow's cottage ; promising to repay his kindness, should it ever be in her power. As she was going along the street, she saw in a butcher's shop a fat bone of beef, and she thought if she had only seen this, whilst she had the money to have purchased it, it might have been the means of preventing her distress ; soon afterwards she

met the waggoner coming to seek her with Harry's shilling, which he put into her hand. Oh, how gratefully did she feel for such a providential assistance! and the history of her boy, with which it was accompanied, added greatly to her pleasure; she no longer thought of leaving Birmingham, but hastening back to the shop where she had seen the bone, paid her shilling for it; and having brought it to her lodgings, boiled it down in a large kettle, which she borrowed for the purpose, and carefully skimming off the fat as it rose to the surface, she let it harden, and then placed it in the window for sale; and she did sell it for tenpence: she then purchased a pennyworth of onion, and a pennyworth of celery-

seed, and tying these up in pieces of linen, she again put on her pot to boil with these in it, and also a pint of peas, for which she gave two-pence. Her soup proved so good that she sold it for threepence a quart in a very short time ; this nearly doubled her shilling, besides having allowed a little for her husband and herself: she therefore determined to continue the business of a cook, till she heard from her sister and this she happily did the next day. Her sister sent her a five-pound note this time, which she said she would contrive to spare till Martha was able to repay it ; and she hoped from her account of her husband, that he would soon be a help to her instead of a burthen. She accounted for the delay in writing by saying that the

lady, who had fixed to pay her bill on a particular day, was so much engaged when she called, preparing for a party of pleasure, which was to last a week, that she desired her to call again on her return ; how little did she think of the misery, which a week's delay might cause to those who lived by their daily labour ! Never, if you can possibly avoid it, disappoint such of their money on the day on which you have promised it. You see what might have been the consequence here, had it not been for Harry's shilling. Martha Hand must have taken her husband back to the widow's cottage ; all his hopes of amendment been blighted, and himself most likely made worse by the disappointment and the jour-

ney. Had it not been promised, Martha's sister would not have depended upon it and written to her; but oh! do not lightly make a promise and break it: you may not know the mischief it may cause, neither would this lady; but it may occasion sorrow, which it would grieve you to think you had contributed to raise.

From this time the poor man gradually improved, his spirits were raised by the good account of his boy, and now that the trouble was all over, his wife told him of her success in soup-making: this made him turn his thoughts to the possibility of keeping a small cook's shop in his own city. He could attend to that and to the book-keeping without the

risk of suffering either from fatigue or cold ; his wife could manage the cooking-department, whilst his boy could go the errands, and make himself useful at home, if nothing better turned out for him. How delightful to this humble couple, was the prospect of being able to maintain themselves by honest industry ; and how sincere were their thanks to their God for what he had already done for them, and their prayers to Him that their plans might be realized, if it seemed good in his sight.

Spring passed away, and with it the season for oranges ; but still Harry's friend drove his cart through the streets of Coventry, and part of whatever commodity it contained, was regularly committed to his care ; and

still was there a stool at the widow's door, bearing a basket; the profits from which were exclusively his. This basket the good woman saw emptied with as much pleasure as he would have done himself; whilst he was earnestly engaged with John, in repaying some part of the obligations he owed her by diligently working in her garden. Himself and his little fruit-stall had become known; he had a good sale for his merchandise, and sometimes received a trifle over from those who knew his story. By these means, as the summer advanced, he had amassed what, considering the single sixpence, from which it sprang, he might well be excused for thinking a mighty sum, namely, one pound one. About this

time he heard from his mother, that he might expect to see his father and herself with the next return of the waggon. Oh, how anxiously did he wait for that day! and in the same breath that he was hoping the waggoner would not drive fast and shake his father, was he accusing him of being too long on the road; at length it appeared on the top of the hill: eagerly he ran forwards to meet it, and with what delight did he find his father able to shake hands with him, as the good-natured waggoner stopped for a moment, when he reached them! Harry walked by its side till they reached the cottage, when he had the pleasure of helping his father out, and of seeing him walk into the house, leaning on his shoulder and

with the help of a stick ; oh, what a house of joy was the widow's that night, nor did they forget to thank the Giver of all Good for His bounty to them !

The parents, with full hearts, thanked the widow for her kindness to their boy : but she declared that a blessing had come with him, for never had she been so prosperous as this season ; besides which, she said, she trusted that her John had acquired habits of regular, steady industry, which she might hope would continue with him through life, and make him her constant support and comfort. Martha Hand now spoke of the plan, which she proposed to adopt, and talked of looking out for a situation suited to her purpose,

the next day. But the widow begged she would not think of going till her husband had rested awhile after his journey, and not run the risk of making him ill again. Martha, as she looked with affectionate thankfulness on her husband's recovered appearance, shuddered at the idea of a relapse, and gladly agreed to stay where they were for a few days ; he himself laughed and said, as he was not yet able to run away, he must do as they determined for him. Harry did not forget Fanny at this joyful period ; but ran down to make her a partaker of his happiness. She welcomed him as usual with delight, but felt some regret, when told he should so soon go to live in the great town ; however, she knew the

town was but a short walk from them to lads like Harry ; and he promised to come up whenever he had an opportunity. “And I think,” continued he, addressing her mother, “you might trust Fanny in the waggon sometimes, and let her spend a day with us :” her mother smiled ; “And how is she to get back again ?” enquired she.

“Oh,” said Harry gaily, “I will bring her home on my back, or, as Punch brought his little wife, in a wheelbarrow.”

But, though he laughed now, he began to ponder upon some means of accomplishing his wish of getting Fanny to see them, when they were settled in the town. I wonder if ever he succeeded. In the course

of a few days Martha had the pleasure of hearing that an elderly couple, friends of her husband and herself, had lately married their daughter; and that a little shop, where she had sold millinery, was in consequence empty, together with the sleeping-room, which she had occupied. This couple were very glad to receive their old friends and their child into their house; for they had, they said, felt very lonely since their daughter left them, and yet had not liked to take in any one, without knowing whether they might be pleasant lodgers or not. There was a neat little counter in the shop, under which a little bed was contrived for Harry; the greatest part of his guinea was laid out by his mo-

ther in the purchase of a round of beef. This nicely salted and cooked made its appearance in the window of the little shop ; and so clean and tempting did it and all around it look, that before night several people, as they passed, had called in for a slice of it. It soon decreased, but the guinea encreased ; for Martha's neatness, honesty, and activity were well known : and she had chosen the wise part of coming to settle amongst those, with whom she was formerly acquainted ; and had not, from a foolish pride, gone to hide her poverty amongst strangers. There is no sin in poverty, if it come from misfortunes ; those who know us best, will be the most ready to assist us ; but if from our own misconduct,

we ought to consider it as a punishment, and bear it with humility, patience, and resignation.

The round of beef had been succeeded by another ; a couple of fowls, a tongue and a nice dish of sausages had also made their appearance on the window-board ; when one day the entrance of a stranger was welcomed with a cry of delight from Martha, who was standing in the shop ; it was her brother, the giver of the crooked sixpence. Oh, how often had she thought of, and wished for him in the time of her great distress at Birmingham ! for she well knew he would not have seen her in want, if he had a shilling. He was just returned from a long voyage in a ship, of which he was

purser ; a situation both of trust and profit, and in which he had given his employers great satisfaction.

Much was to be told and enquired of ; all that had occurred since they parted, the adventures of the crooked sixpence, as he called them, were gaily related by Harry, who felt gratified, as his uncle, laying his hand on his head, told him he had discovered the true method of making it a lucky one : then turning to his parents, he said, if they would trust their boy to him, he would do his duty by him ; and he thought him more fitted for the active life of a sailor than the one he was now fixed in. It had always been Harry's great desire to go to sea, but his affection for his father and mother had prevented his men-

tioning such a wish ; you may guess therefore, with what anxiety he heard the proposal made by another. At first, both parents declared they could not do without him ; but, after a little further conversation, it was agreed that if, when Harry was about fourteen or fifteen, and had had some more schooling, which his uncle insisted upon paying for, he should then feel inclined to go, and if things seemed as suitable for it as they did at present, he should not be prevented.

Harry now felt he had got an assistant in his desire to have Fanny and her brother to spend a day with them, and getting his uncle alone, he consulted him on his plan, which was, to borrow a quiet pony belong-

ing to a baker in the neighbourhood, and which had been almost promised to him by the son, a boy much about his own age ; he thought with his guidance, Fanny might safely ride this little animal ; and he said he did so long to get her over before the cold dark days were come. His uncle was pleased with his attention to the little lame child, and promised to help him to accomplish his scheme. Harry's father and mother readily consented to his wish, adding a desire that the whole of Fanny's family, with the widow and her son, might be invited to come to tea ; and Harry, with his uncle, was to walk over to the village that evening to fix the day, as far as the weather, which must be consulted on such

occasions, would permit. They went accordingly, and met with a glad welcome at both houses, both for themselves and their proposal.

Fanny, whose ankle was certainly gaining strength, almost thought she could have walked to the town to spend a day with Harry; her mother said, she would work hard to earn a half-day's holiday, and the father said, he would beg one for once, a thing he scarcely ever did, and therefore thought he should not be refused. Robert begged so hard to accompany his sister, to whom he had now become very kind, that Harry's uncle joined in the petition, and he was sent off with a request to his master, that he might be allowed to stay from school the first fine day: his master

gave him leave, on condition that he did not lose his place in his class ; but learnt his lessons as usual. This Robert promised to do, and returned home with a light heart, feeling that he was not now considered quarrelsome and disagreeable, and wished out of the way as he used to be.

John and his mother were equally desirous of paying a visit to their former lodgers ; and John, with whom the orange-man kept up the trade he had begun with Harry, shewed them the contents of his basket, which were now filberts and walnuts ; he told them, he was saving his money to pay for some more schooling in the winter ; and with what might be left he wished to buy some good sorts of apple-trees or a pear-tree, as

his mother had not one in her garden. Harry had the pleasure of seeing that John had not lost his habits of industry ; and of being thanked and blessed by his mother for the good example he had given him.

The sun shone beautifully on the following day ; and they only who have laboured hard to earn a holiday, to whom it comes but seldom, and never lasts until it grows tiresome, can tell how much the thoughts of this one was enjoyed by all the parties concerned. Harry and his uncle set off with the pony for the village in very good time, and there they found both Fanny and Robert ready to receive them ; the former was quickly placed on the back of

the little animal by the good-natured sailor : she held her pretty basket in her hand ; it had been filled with hedge-nuts gathered by Robert, some of the flowers, which still remained in John's garden, in the part which he continued to call Harry's ; and the widow had placed in the midst of them half a dozen rosy-cheeked apples. Robert took hold of the bridle of the pony ; Harry walked closely by the side of Fanny, for fear she should slip ; and the sailor, much to the satisfaction of the mother, said he would keep a "look out" all round.

The group at length set forward with many directions to be careful ; Fanny enjoyed her ride very much till she came to the town, when the

noise of the carts, horses, and people, to which she had been so little accustomed, alarmed her a good deal ; but encouraged by her companions, she sat on her steed most courageously, till she was gently lifted from it at the door of the neat little shop, by Harry's uncle ; and almost carried in by his mother. Every thing was new and strange to her, for she could scarcely remember having been in Coventry before, and it was sometime before, as she said, she could think of any thing for the bustle and confusion around her ; in particular, the rattle of the pavement, and the people passing so close to the windows surprised her ; and she owned, that however amusing it was to come into a crowd for a time,

she should not like to live in one constantly. The rest of the party arrived early in the afternoon ; they had all visited the shop several times, and much rejoiced to see the prospect of comfort, which it afforded to their friends. It was with a feeling of the deepest gratitude to the Giver of all Good, these friends now invited to their simple board those who had been His instruments in spreading a table for them, when they were destitute of the means of procuring even a morsel of bread for themselves : the hearts of all overflowed with kindly feelings towards each other, and thus repaid in the manner which He hath ordained, the blessings which He had heaped upon them. But the day of greatest pleasure must come

to a close ; — well would it be, if we would always think of this, whilst preparing for any transitory enjoyment, — it would help us to look forward to it with less anxiety, teach us not to spend too much time and thought in preparing for it, and not to be so terribly grieved, if anything should arise to prevent the expected gratification. Fanny was again mounted on the little pony, and as Harry placed her basket on her knee, into which he had put a bit or two of gingerbread, he laughed and said he could not gather flowers for her in the streets ; his uncle and he walked home with their friends, and brought the pony safely back to its owner.

Three or four years passed smooth-

ly on ; the shop of John and Martha Hand continued to encrease in reputation, for the things were good, clean, and reasonable. Harry had been improving in writing and accounts, and had now begun to study navigation ; for his uncle, who had been to see them two or three times, still continued to express a wish of taking him with him at fifteen, a period now fast approaching.

Once or twice in every summer the same party had assembled in the little shop, which I before described ; but Fanny, though not strong, was now able to walk with a little assistance to and from the village, and her lameness was scarcely to be perceived. Robert was learning the trade of a carpenter with the same

master who employed his father. John was a great comfort and help to his mother in her garden, which flourished admirably, and where his pear-tree was now both very useful and ornamental.

One evening, Fanny called at the shop with her mother, and whilst the former remained in it talking to Harry and his father, the latter went with Martha into a neat back room, which they had now added to their lodgings, and over which was a small room for Harry, who had given up his bed under the counter, to make room, as he said, for pies and puddings. Fanny's mother spoke of her with some degree of anxiety; for, she said, she was sure she would never be strong enough to help her

in her business, and she could not afford to put her apprentice to any easy trade ; she was now getting a great girl, and it was time they should be thinking of something for her to do : she was a very neat plain sewer, but she was not likely to maintain herself by that ; particularly in an out-of-the-way village.

“ Well,” said Martha, when her friend ceased speaking, “ my husband and I have been thinking also, what we should do when my brother takes away our Harry ; we shall miss him sadly, but yet I think it will be better for him to go ; his uncle is his godfather, and will, I have every reason to believe, do his duty by him ; Harry, we see, wishes it himself, if he could be convinced

that he left us comfortable. Our trade increases so much, that we are talking of setting up a bake-house also ; there is great convenience for one at the back of the house ; but if we do we must have a good stout lad to fetch, and carry, and help in it ; for, though I am truly thankful to God that my husband is now well enough to attend to it himself, I would not on any account run the risk of his taking cold, by going in and out of a hot place like that. Now if we do begin this other business, I shall have enough to manage in the cooking part, and shall want some one sadly in Harry's room to attend to the shop ; what do you think of letting me have your Fanny ? If she can make up her mind to like

a town, I will take as much care of her as if she was my own : and as I mean to have a woman to clean the house on Saturdays, if her father or Robert would come round for her, (and it would not be much out of their way,) she might go home with them every Saturday-night, spend her Sunday with you, which I know you would like, and come again with them on Monday-morning."

Fanny's mother declared such a situation would be every thing she could wish for her ; but added, she feared she would be too young and too weak to be of much use.

"Oh," replied Martha, "we want neatness, honesty, and steadiness in the shop, more than strength ; there are no heavy things to lift, and the

boy will take out the parcels. I know Fanny's manners to be gentle and pleasing, and I am sure she would be civil and attentive, therefore talk to your husband and herself about it; I will teach her the business as well as I can, and who knows," added she, smiling, "but when we are old and feeble, she may succeed to it altogether, and thus have a comfortable home for her father and yourself?"

Fanny now came in to remind her mother it was time to think of going, for Martha and she had quite forgotten the hour, which Fanny was reminded of by the town-clock. On their way home, Fanny's mother told her what had passed between Martha and herself; and

she was delighted at the idea of being of use, and particularly to Harry's parents ; for she had often grieved over her want of strength, and feared she should all her life be a burthen at home.

Her mother now reminded her of having done so, and told her as she had often done before, that such repining was sinful ; because, as her lameness was no fault of her own, to fret so much about it, and fear its consequences as she did, was murmuring against Him who had inflicted it, doubtless for wise purposes ; and who could and would find means for her support ; nay, might make her very weakness a blessing to her, if she was patient and resigned.

And this was now plainly the case ;

for had she been a rude, healthy, romping girl, like the other children of the village, the circumstance would not have happened, which had drawn Harry's attention. This had long since been told to his parents by Robert himself, and which had been the means used by Providence to lead her to a situation, for which also the habits of quietness, acquired from her lameness, had all this time been making her the more suited. Fanny gratefully acknowledged the truth of what her mother said, and did not rest that night till she had thanked her God for all his mercies, and prayed to be forgiven for her fears and repinings.

Fanny's father was as much pleased as her mother at the prospect of such

a home for their child, and Robert sincerely rejoiced in his sister's prospects. Harry was wild with delight; such a plan quite set his mind at rest respecting leaving his parents; and when his uncle returned again, he found every thing arranged for Harry's accompanying him on his next voyage.

Fanny was very busy, both with regret and pleasure, in making his linen, and the widow Mann was knitting his stockings. All were fond of Harry, and wished to do something for him before he left. Robert, with his father's assistance, was making an excellent sea-chest; and John had rambled far, during the autumnal months, to procure the finest blackberries for his mother to

boil down into jam ; because he had heard that this was the best thing to prevent those complaints, to which sailors are subject, from salt-provisions and the want of vegetables.

The few weeks of the sailor's stay were soon over : Harry's chest arrived ; it was firm and strong, covered over the top and at all the seams with tarpaulin, (hempen cloth covered with tar,) a thick twisted cord was fastened at each end to lift, or, as seamen say, to heave it by ; there was a small box fixed within it near the top for spoons, money, &c., and a division at one end to hold anything which might injure his clothes ; into this was put many little comforts by his mother, and the blackberry-jam was not forgotten.

Fanny had finished his linen, and her mother had taken great pains to get it up well. The chest was packed, and given in charge to the friendly waggoner, who declared it should go free as far as he could take it.

And now arrived the day on which Harry was to bid his parents farewell for an uncertain period of time ; all their efforts could not prevent its being a melancholy one ; but when they had embraced and seen him seated on the coach by the side of his uncle, they retired to their own room and found comfort to themselves, in begging a blessing and protection to them from the Almighty Father of us all.

The next morning brought Fanny

anxious, and from the best of motives to do her duty, and to be a comfort to the parents of Harry; but she could not help shewing her sorrow, when she looked round and missed her young friend. This endeared her the more to his parents, and though a little timid at first, she soon became accustomed to attend in the shop; and till that was the case they did not make any addition to their business; but in the course of a few months, they fitted up the long-talked of bake-house, and hired a stout lad, who had been in the habit of going errands for them, to attend constantly.

In the mean time the coach with Harry and his uncle upon it, kept moving rapidly along. The boy

was very anxious to enter upon a line of life he had always thought of with delight, since the day when his uncle, giving him the CROOKED SIX-PENCE, had told him to be steady in attending to his school-duties, and to try to make himself active and strong, that he might be fit for a sailor, when he was old enough.

This had been spoken more in jest than earnest, for at that time it did not seem likely that his parents, who were in comfortable circumstances, would have chosen to part with their only child; but Harry always remembered his uncle's words, and he never climbed a tree without thinking of the mast of a ship; and in all their difficulties, he consoled himself with the idea that they were fitting

him for the hardships and privations of a sailor's life, for such he well knew he must expect to suffer. But the idea of sailing along the boundless ocean, visiting foreign countries, looking himself at the things and people he now read of with such wonder and delight, made him think lightly of any little inconvenience he might undergo to obtain such gratification; and of danger he seldom thought at all; indeed, he had been taught from his infancy to consider that the same God watcheth over all his creatures, and that they are as safe under his care on the mighty ocean as on the dry land, in the darkness of the night as in the brightness of the day; besides which, the visits of his uncle had made the

life of a sailor familiar to him ; and he thought of a voyage to India as we would do of a tour to the Highlands.

Yet, now that he had indeed left his parents, and was really on his way to enjoy what he had so often wished for, many feelings of regret arose in his mind ; his father was still feeble,— how would he do without him ? He longed to see how Fanny got on in the shop ; he wished she had come for a few days before he left, that he might have taught her the way he used to manage. Then his mother ! how many things he recollected that he wished he had said to her, but it was too late now.

They went rolling on, and his uncle soon called his attention to the

different objects they were passing on their road to Liverpool, where the ADELAIDE, the ship to which they belonged, was lying almost ready for sea. When they entered that busy town, and passing through it, arrived at the magnificent docks, Harry was astonished and almost bewildered by what he saw and heard ; but when he found himself actually on board the vessel, which was to bear him to another quarter of the globe, he felt a thrill of delight and awe, which nearly overpowered him ; and it was sometime before he could answer his uncle's good-humoured welcome to a sailor's home.

The situation of purser obliged Harry's uncle to be at the ship some time before she sailed, and this gave

Harry an opportunity of seeing a good deal both of her and of the town ; he did not find much pleasure in wandering about the streets to look, as he said, at walls and windows, and perhaps to get a push into the kennel, whilst doing so ; but he was never tired of examining and admiring the conveniences and contrivances on board the *ADELAIDE*. He was anxious also to be able to climb the shrouds, to walk about steadily, and to know something of his duties before he was joined by his young companions, from whom his uncle had taught him to expect many jokes and tricks, which, he told him, if he meant to live quietly, he must take good-humouredly.

Harry was much surprised by

many things he saw ; his cot, suspended by cords to the beams, did not seem to him so comfortable a resting-place as a bed which was prepared in the state-cabin to accommodate a lady, who was to go as a passenger ; but he had reason to be of a different opinion in the course of the voyage, when, during a brisk gale, through which he had swung in his cot without ever being awakened by it, the lady had been rolled out of her bed on to the floor, but happily received no injury except the fright ; but this taught Harry that it is much better to endeavour to accustom yourself to use things, which are suitable to any situation you may be placed in, than to bring others which are not fit for it, how-

ever you may have liked them and found them convenient where you were before.

Harry was, like most young sailors, troubled with sea-sickness at first ; but he found great relief from binding a towel tight round his waist. And when he had overcome this evil, he quickly became reconciled to his present way of living, though so totally dissimilar to what he had been accustomed.

The biscuits he found very unlike those which were made by his mother ; and the beef, which was cured, as it is called, to make it keep through the voyage, was very different to the tender rounds he used to see cut up on her counter every week ; these, however, were not things to make

such a lad as Harry grumble; he felt he was more likely to grow weary of the confinement of the ship, and to long for a race in the fields; but he knew how much that confinement would encrease the pleasure of such a race, when he should be able to get one; and he was not a silly boy to quarrel with the situation he had chosen, because he found some things in it he did not quite like; he knew every station has its vexations and its trials, and that it is our duty to bear the one and to resist the other; and he knew also where to look for strength to enable him to do so: he had been taught, that it is more necessary to be upon our guard against the trifling temptations of life than against those of more mo-

ment; the former seem of so little consequence, that we even feel ashamed of asking our God to enable us to resist them, whilst in fact it is their apparently trifling importance that makes them dangerous; we yield to them almost without being aware of them; then we make excuses for doing so, or else we say they are of so little consequence as not to require any excuse, and thus we become accustomed to do what is wrong: and remember, my young friends, the greatest criminals were at one time free from actual sin; they must have committed a first fault; most likely it was a trifling one, for people grow wicked by degrees, not all at once.

Harry had soon enough to exercise

his patience and forbearance, when his young companions joined the ship, and they weighed anchor, and began to pursue their course along the vast Atlantic ocean; these youths endeavoured to amuse themselves by playing him all sorts of tricks; they untied the cords of his cot, so that when he tried to get into it, it fell down and he rolled out; they would give him a slight push as he was walking unsteadily along the decks, (for it requires some practice to walk firmly on the deck of a ship, whilst she is sailing,) and make him slip down; and many other tricks they played him; but as Harry bore them all good-humouredly, and was the first to laugh at them himself, they soon gave over teasing him; for they

said there was no fun in it, and that he was a fine fellow, and they would not try to torment him any more ; but this was not the case with another poor boy, who joined them just before they left the harbour. He was the son of a rich merchant, and had been used to all the comforts and indulgences which wealth can procure ; yet he had not been sufficiently taught that useful lesson, to bear and forbear ; he was annoyed by every little trifle, was quite indignant at having any tricks played upon him ; and ready to fight every one who ventured to laugh at him. Such a one, you may be sure, was the cause of great amusement to his companions ; and they continued to teaze and torment him great part of the

voyage; though Harry good-naturally endeavoured, when he had got into general favour himself, to shield this boy from some of their pranks, and to persuade him to bear others patiently: but he had not learnt to govern his passions, or yield up his wishes to the advice of others, and sad was the consequence.

Their voyage was a prosperous one; and when they touched at the Cape of Good Hope to take in water. Harry did indeed enjoy the being once more on shore. From hence he wrote to England, and his letter was received with delight by his parents and all his friends. After leaving the Cape, they proceeded onwards; and entered the bay of Bengal, and sailing up the Hoogly,

proceeded towards Calcutta. The Hoogly is a branch of the Ganges, a river considered as sacred or holy by the Indians, who formerly offered their children there to the alligators ; many of which ferocious creatures live in its dark and muddy waters ; and even now, grown people offer themselves to them by walking into the river and waiting there till the alligator seize them ; but the British Government has forbidden the sacrifice of children. You cannot be too thankful, my young readers, for having been born in a country where the Christian religion forbids all such dreadful superstitious practices. Endeavour to shew your gratitude for such a blessing, by your love for and trust in Jesus Christ its founder ;

and by a constant and earnest endeavour to obey all the precepts which He has enjoined us, in spirit and in truth.

Harry was much surprised and amused to see the Indians in their *catamarans*, as they are called, (a sort of small raft only supporting one person,) on which they paddled to the ship, bringing fruit for sale; they seemed as much at their ease on the water as you do in a hay-field, diving and tumbling about in all directions; for they are taught to swim and dive when quite infants, and you know nothing enables a person to do any thing well and easily so much as practice; besides which, the Indians have no fine clothes to incommode them, but only a piece of cloth girt about their middle.

They were obliged to come to anchor in Diamond-Harbour, between thirty and forty miles from Calcutta, in a straight line, but at a much greater distance if you follow the windings of the river; but no vessel is able to sail up to Calcutta that draws, as it is called; that is, that requires more than seventeen feet of water to sail in, except during the spring-tides, when the water is deep enough for them to go all the way: and it was October when the *ADELAIDE* reached India, the beginning of the pleasant season, when, if you will rise very early, you may have a delightful walk before the hot time of the day arrives.

Now Harry found all his hopes and expectatious realized, and ex-

ceeded by the variety and interest of the scene around him, though this part of the Hoogly is not pretty ; and Harry was very glad when his uncle was at liberty to take him in a *panchway*, or passage-boat, up the river. He was now much astonished by the different vessels with which the river was crowded, so strange in their forms and appearance ; the one in which he was, was in shape something like a snuffers' dish : a deck at each end, and the middle covered with a roof of palm branches, with coarse cloth fastened over them to keep out the burning rays of the sun. The Maldivian vessels, which are raised an immense height above the water, by upper works of split bamboo ; the Bengalee and Chittagong

vessels, with high heads and sterns, and immense rudders ; then there were Arab ships, with three masts, and built just like those of Europe, but with open galleries and verandahs.

Harry was much interested in watching the different manner in which these vessels were manœuvred, and the navigation is difficult, as the ships have to sail through passages lying between sand-banks. Harry's uncle pointed out to him and to Peter Cross, the youth I have before mentioned, and whom he had kindly taken with them, the low swampy shore of the island of Sangor ; not more dangerous from the tigers and serpents which with it abounds, than from the unwholesome air, which arises from its numerous marshes.

He also cautioned them against drinking toddy, a fiery sort of stuff sold by the natives, who dwell in little mud huts thatched with straw, and so low that, as Bishop Heber says, "they look like hay-stacks." Harry, who had been brought up in habits of obedience and reflection, readily promised his uncle to observe his advice ; but Peter, who had been too much used to study his own inclinations only, and not to yield to the opinions of others, or even to think of the consequence to himself of any thing he wished to do, was silent.

At length the river became clearer, and different plantations and buildings appeared on its banks ; villages, surrounded by fruit-trees and flower-

ing shrubs ; pagodas, with their high towers ; and presently the country-seats of the Europeans, began to vary and enliven the scene. Their boat was at length drawn close up to the handsome quay of Calcutta, amongst a crowd of vessels of all sizes and descriptions, and Harry gazed with astonishment and delight upon all he saw. The graceful dress of the Hindoos, — the picturesque habits and noble figures of the Arabs, mingled with the nearly naked forms of the Indians, — and the different costumes of Europe ; the white houses of Calcutta, with the graceful foliage of the bamboo, banyan, and palm, and the mighty waters of the Hoogly ; all combined to form a scene he thought he should never

be tired of observing; but poor Harry soon found, as we must all expect to do, that there are no earthly pleasures unmixed with earthly troubles or regrets of some sort. Harry and Peter went on shore with the uncle of the former, and were taken by him to see what is called the black town of Calcutta; here the ruinous state of many of the buildings, the dirt of the others, the narrow crooked streets, the frightful Idols set up in different parts of the city, the shocking appearance of the religious mendicants, with their faces painted white or yellow, their long hair and beards their only clothing, one bony hand holding a string of beads, the other

extended more like a claw, ready to seize whatever it could reach, than as in the act of soliciting alms; the cruelty of the wild-looking beings, who, with their thick sticks were driving and beating unmercifully the oxen, which were employed drawing carts; which carts, with their ungreased wheels, squeaked along most unmusically, and helped to encrease the sound made by the constant clamour of voices, and the almost constant noise of drums, cymbals, &c., which were played upon in honour of some one or other of their deities, of which they have a most incredible number. The very disagreeable smells, too, which he found in every direction, soon made him feel tired of his ramble through the

city; and he was very glad to regain an open part of the country.

Harry's uncle had a friend, who dwelt in a large good house near the quay; and there they lived during their visits to Calcutta, for they were obliged frequently to return to the ship at Diamond-Harbour. When they entered the lofty room, into which they were shown upon their first visit to Captain Wilson, the friend of whom I have just spoken, Harry was much surprised and not much pleased to find it already occupied by swarms of cock-roaches and other insects, whilst a variety of birds were flying in and out in pursuit of them. He asked his uncle why the room had not a ceiling, and he was told that they durst not cover the

beams, lest the white ants should get to them and injure them, without being perceived.

Whilst they were conversing on the wonderful habits of these insects, it grew dusk, and Captain Wilson ordered lights; immediately a number of bats of a large size made their appearance, and began to flutter about. Peter, who was very timid in regard to creatures of that kind, though, alas! too bold in his opinion of himself and determination to have his own way, began to cry out, and was hardly to be pacified. Harry did not like them, or indeed any of the insects he saw flying and crawling about, for they gave him an idea of dirt and discomfort; but it was not till he retired to bed that he was very

much annoyed. Then, notwithstanding the gauze curtains, with which he was surrounded, he found it impossible to sleep, owing to the bites of the mosquitoes, and other even more troublesome and disgusting creatures, with which, from the warmth and moisture of the climate, the country abounds. But Harry knew that he must bear these troubles with patience ; and he had been told that Europeans are not so much affected by them after they have been there awhile, as upon their first landing ; therefore he hoped that he also should suffer less from them after a time. And so it proved ; he soon began to care little about them : but poor Peter, who, as I told you before, was not gifted either with

much patience or much reflection, was quite angry at being so tormented; he seemed inclined to believe that he had been put where these creatures were known to be in the greatest numbers; and one would have almost thought by his complaints, that those had been chosen to attack him, whose bites and stings were known to be the most venomous. But, in fact, he did suffer more than Harry from several causes. His impatient temper would of itself have irritated and made the bites inflame to a greater degree than they would otherwise have done; added to which, he had, I am sorry to say, notwithstanding the advice and caution he had received, visited the huts of the natives to procure

toddy ; this had made him feverish, and the evil effects of it he was, alas ! afterwards to learn in a still more fatal manner.

The country round Calcutta is very pleasing, and Harry enjoyed many delightful walks and drives amongst beautiful villages, which are built in absolute thickets of trees, with the most picturesque and finest foliage to be seen in the world ; but with the fruit he was much disappointed ; the oranges, though pleasant, were small and acid ; not, in his opinion, half so fine as those with which his own little basket used to be filled, or half so good as the two or three spotted ones, which the orange-man used to give him to regale Fanny and John with. The plantain he

did not think so good as a fine pear; the shaddock, he thought, might be kept for the benefit of people in fevers, to whom its slight bitter taste is said to be beneficial; and the guava, he thought, tasted like a mixture of raspberry-jam and garlic; besides which, the people in all these pretty villages looked unhealthy, owing, as his uncle told him, to the stagnant water with which most of the huts were surrounded, and to the moisture in the air, which, whilst it increased the growth of vegetation in an amazing degree, was very injurious to animal life. It is supposed, were Calcutta itself to become suddenly deprived of its inhabitants, in less than a hundred years all its houses and palaces would

have disappeared, and the ground upon which they now stand be completely covered by the rank vegetation which would so immediately spring up.

Harry found, however, his curiosity had been gratified by visiting India; he was not by any means desirous of spending his life there; the manners and customs of the people displeased him; he turned with horror from their superstitious rites, and the cruelties practised by the *dacoits*, or robbers, made him shudder. He one day with his uncle entered a village where a *dacoity*, or robbery, had very lately been committed; a band of these men had entered a hut and seized the master of it, whom they tortured, to

make him tell where he kept his little stock of money, in such a manner, that when at length he pointed it out to them and was released, he was so much injured as to die the next day. Oh, my children, can we be too grateful that we live in a country where the laws protect the meanest person in it from such dreadful violence; and can we be too anxious to preserve those laws, and the government which guards them, from the anarchy and confusion which is the fate of those nations, where the spirit of the Christian religion is unfelt, and where the authority of kings and magistrates, which comes from God, and which Christ himself bids us reverence, is unattended to?

Another time, Harry met a servant of the lowest order running about the house at Captain Wilson's, with a small spear stuck through his tongue; he was begging money from his fellow-servants. On enquiring the cause of this cruelty, Harry was told that the man was doing it in honor of their goddess *Kali*, to whom there had been a grand procession that morning, in which many devotees had walked with spears through their arms and tongues, or with hot irons pressed against their sides. And in the evening his uncle took him to the *Boitaconnah*, the part of the city where trees are erected for swinging; there Harry saw a man covered with flowers, who, without shrinking, or any ap-

parent reluctance, had hooks thrust through the flesh of his side, and then a broad bandage being fastened round his waist to prevent the hooks being torn through by the weight of his body, he was drawn up to a cross pole and whirled round, at first slowly, but at length very rapidly, for some minutes, when the motion was stopped, and the bystanders were going to let him down, but he made signs for them to let him go round again ; the people greatly applauded his resolution, and, after drinking some water, he was again carried round for some time.

As they were returning home, Harry asked his uncle what could possibly induce any one to bear such

torture, for he appeared to suffer willingly, and not to have been forced to undergo it, and he did not appear to be intoxicated, as he had fancied he might have been, and so not able to know or think what they were going to do with him. His uncle told him, that it was usual for those who were to bear these pains, to take opium to deaden their feelings, and the parts, through which spears, &c., were pushed, were said to be rubbed first till they were much numbed, but that the wounds thus inflicted were frequently very difficult to heal, and sometimes caused death.*

“Oh, what a shocking religion,”

* The festival in honour of Kali, takes place in April.

exclaimed Harry, shuddering, "it seems to have been invented to teach people to be cruel."

"It is indeed calculated to do so," replied his uncle, "as all false religions are; and we cannot be too thankful that pious and holy men were inspired to come over to Britain, to teach our ancestors the worship of the one true God, and were thus the means of rescuing them, and consequently ourselves, from the same kind of senseless and horrible superstitions."

"You mean in the time of the Druids, uncle," said Harry, "but that is so long ago, I can hardly believe now that they ever worshipped idols in England."

"That, my boy," replied his uncle,

“is too often the case ; we are very apt to forget to be thankful for blessings which we have possessed for any length of time, almost feeling as if they were ours by right, and as if we should be injured if they were to be taken from us ; when, in fact, the longer we have enjoyed them, the more cause we have to be grateful, remembering that every blessing and every good gift cometh from the Lord ; and we cannot better show, both our gratitude for the blessings of the Christian religion, and our proper sense of its value, than by endeavouring, as far as lies in our power, both by precept and example, to spread its benefits amongst those who are still living in darkness and in error.”

“But, uncle,” answered Harry, “these poor people would not listen to me if I spoke to them of our God; and we must not even, if we had the power, force any one to become of the same religion as ourselves.”

“Certainly not,” replied his uncle, “we should know very little of the spirit of the religion we pretended to teach if we did; for it is one of love and mercy, not of anger and violence. Besides, as ours is a religion of the heart, it is to the heart only we can teach it. We should have gained very little, I may say nothing, if we could even make all the people in the world to call upon the name of Jesus, if we had not persuaded them to love him as the Saviour, and to hear his words with

gladness; and that we could never do by force.”

“No, uncle, and I thought *we* could not do it at all; it must be the Spirit of God, which makes men’s hearts good.”

“Certainly, my boy, but as it is said by the Prophet Daniel, chap. xii. verse 3, “They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever;” so, I doubt not, but that those who, from real pity and love to their ignorant fellow beings, and from a sincere desire to extend the kingdom of God upon earth, endeavour in a spirit of gentleness and kindness to spread the light of the Gospel, are most likely to be made the honoured instruments of Him who worketh now by human means.”

One day when Harry and his uncle were busily engaged on board the *ADELAIDE*, looking over and arranging some of the ship-stores, they missed Peter; and upon enquiring after him, were told he had asked and obtained leave to go on shore, with three or four of the sailors, young thoughtless men, whom Peter had often seemed inclined to be with, and against whom he had frequently been cautioned, for they were very likely to encourage or to lead him into any wild or foolish scheme; and Harry's uncle now shook his head, and wished they might come back without getting into any mischief. They heard nothing of Peter and his party for some hours; when one of the natives came on board with co-

coa-nuts, and upon being asked if he knew anything of them, he replied that they had stopped at his hut in the morning, (he sold toddy,) with guns in their hands, and that he thought, by their talk, they were going to shoot deer on the island of Sangor. When the man was gone, Harry's uncle turned to him and said, "What a terrible thing the wilful spirit of this boy is, for himself and all belonging to him; and how much his parents have to answer for, in not having corrected it when he was a child; but I fear their neglect will bring its own punishment, for what comfort can they hope or expect to receive from him, should he ever live to be a man? I can do nothing with him but what I have

done ; yet if any thing evil happens to him, it will be a sad tale to carry home to his parents, who doat upon him." Peter's parents knew Harry's uncle ; and when, upon the urgent entreaties of their child, they gave a very reluctant consent that he should make one voyage, hoping he never would wish to make another, when he had tried the hardships and privations of a sailor's life, for which, as they truly said, he was very ill prepared. They had asked Harry's uncle to watch over, and to advise him, and this he promised to do to the best of his abilities ; but warning them, at the same time, that he feared he should not be able to gain much controul over him ; and he soon found, as I have told you, that

he had too much reason for this fear. He had prayed for him, and he had tried to lead him to pray for himself; but alas! poor boy, he had never learnt to respect and to obey his earthly parents, and he knew little of what is really meant by praying to a heavenly Father; he used a form of words indeed, but he thought not of their meaning: he bent his body at the name of Jesus, but his heart knew nothing of its want of a Saviour. It is little, therefore, to be wondered at, that all his endeavour was to gain as much amusement as he could; and as he had no idea of being sorry for a fault, unless he was found out and punished for it, he never hesitated to do what he knew to be wrong, when he was out of sight of those

who had any power over him ; when he used laughingly to say and to think, he might do as he pleased, no one would know it, and he should never be called to an account for his actions.

Alas ! poor boy, he was terribly mistaken ; there is One, who sees and knows all we do, and to whom we must give, not only a just and full account of all our actions, but also of the motives which led to them.

Late in the evening Harry and his uncle, who were sitting in the cabin of the latter, heard a confused noise on the deck, as of many feet and many voices ; they also thought they heard groans, mingled with the other sounds. Harry ran hastily upon deck, and there, in the midst

of a group of sailors, he saw the bleeding body of the youth of whom they had been talking. Harry was sadly shocked, and knelt down by his side in silence, whilst the following account was given of the accident.

The party had gone, as the Indian had related, to Sangor ; and whilst in pursuit of some of the deer, a large tiger had sprung upon them, with a most terrible roar, from the jungle, (the thick grass and brushwood which covers the uncleared land,) and seized the unfortunate boy by the shoulder. He would undoubtedly have carried him off, had not one of his companions, whose piece was still undischarged, fired at the monster, and shot him in the

neck ; the creature let go his hold, and retired with an hideous roar, and they had with difficulty succeeded in bringing the youth to the ship. By this time the surgeon had arrived, and by his directions the sailors again proceeded to raise Peter from the deck in order to take him below, that his wound might be examined ; this was not accomplished without difficulty, for the poor boy had never been taught to bear pain, or in fact, to exercise patience or resolution in any way ; and his cries and moans were now very distressing to those around him. Indeed he seemed to think they were putting him to unnecessary pain, and both the surgeon and Harry's uncle, finding reasoning and entreaties vain,

were obliged to speak sternly to him before he would allow the former to look at his shoulder.

I hope my young friends will consider this scene; and if ever they should be obliged to submit to any painful operation, or be afflicted by any illness, try to bear it with patience and fortitude, and not add to the anxiety of all around them, by unnecessary complaints, or by struggling against what must be done. We know that all afflictions come from God, and to him we must apply for strength to bear them; besides which, the more patiently any trial of the kind is borne, the sooner it is over, and the more desirous every one feels to do their utmost to relieve those, who do not increase

the trouble they must give by fretfulness or impatience.

When Peter's arm was at length dressed, the surgeon declared that the wound, though certainly a painful, was not a serious one, and that he had no doubt but a few days' rest and quietness, and living very low, would keep off fever, and prevent any dangerous consequences; but, unfortunately, the state in which Peter was, from the use of *toddy*, which he had secretly obtained most days, together with the evil effects produced on his constitution by having frequently subjected himself to the damp and pestilential air of the marshes of Sangor with his thoughtless companions, was now much against his recovery. Nor was

this all ; he would not be contented with the cooling drinks prepared for him ; and, notwithstanding the care of Henry and his uncle, some of his young acquaintances, when they came to see him, and he complained of feeling weak and languid, declared that he must have something to revive him, and they contrived secretly, to bring wine and spirits to him, which soon produced fever. His wound assumed an alarming appearance ; all the care and attention which could be paid to him were of no avail ; and in the course of a few days the unfortunate youth breathed his last. And, during all his illness, every effort had been made, in vain, to draw his mind to any serious subject : religion had

always been considered by him, as the business only of the Sunday, and of the aged or dying; to mention it to him, therefore, caused a degree of agitation and alarm, which evidently increased his earthly sufferings, without in the least leading him to seek for assistance and support from Heaven.

Oh, my children! it is not in the hour of affliction or of anguish that Religion will come as a soother and a comforter, if you have never thought of her in the hour of pleasure and of joy. To be a blessing to you, then, you must not turn to religion as to something to be thought of and sought for only in a time of trouble, but as to that which has been the guide and guardian of your

hours of happiness and peace, and she will then sustain and console you under every trial.

The death of this unhappy boy added another to the number of those who have perished, not so much from the unhealthiness of the climate, as from their own thoughtlessness, in eating and drinking improper things; in exposing themselves imprudently and unnecessarily to the damp air of the marshes, and in rushing heedlessly into danger, as was the case with this poor boy.

Soon after Peter's funeral, Harry and his uncle began to prepare for their return home: Harry had been allowed to bring out a small venture, as it is called; that is, a few articles of trade which were likely to be ex-

changed in India to advantage, for the produce of that country, and this to be brought to be disposed of in England. As he had had his uncle's advice on the occasion, what he took out was perfectly suitable to the country and therefore readily parted with ; not like the speculation of one, who carried out a parcel of skates to a country where ice was never heard of; so necessary is it to understand well what you are going to do, or to take the advice of those who have had more experience and know better than yourselves, as to the best method of proceeding ; for want of this caution the man I mentioned not only lost his *venture*, but was laughed at for his folly, whilst Harry's judicious selection of needles,

thimbles, pins, &c., gained him there some profit; and the sum thus procured was again laid out in those productions of the East, most likely to be sold in England.

At length their lading being completed, Harry shook hands with Captain Wilson and his family, and standing on the deck of the *ADELAIDE*, watched her glide majestically out of the harbour, and turn her prow in the direction of England with a feeling of delight, though not unmixed with regret as he thought on the unhappy fate of him who had come out with them to return no more; but he was grateful for his own preservation, and earnest in his prayers for future protection, both from dangers and temptations.

As they passed down the Hoogly, his uncle described to him the dangerous nature of the bore, or spring-tide, which, with a sound resembling that of a steam-boat, but infinitely louder, rushes with impetuous violence, sometimes up one side of the river, sometimes up the other, but never extending over the whole basin; the side up which it rushes, is raised to a frightful height like a monstrous billow in a storm, or the dash of a foaming surf; sometimes the river will rise at Calcutta as much as five feet. Harry enquired if vessels were not sometimes overwhelmed by it; his uncle told him that boats had been swallowed up by it, but that the time of its approach being well known, by rowing into the

middle of the stream, they might be kept out of danger; whilst the bore foamed by with tremendous noise and velocity.*

The ADELAIDE had by this time wound her way through the sandbanks, passed Sangor, and emerging from the mouth of the Hoogly, swept gracefully into the Indian ocean. Their voyage was a prosperous one, and in about four months from the time of their leaving India they sailed up the Mersey and cast anchor in harbour at Liverpool; their duty kept them here for some time, but you may imagine the delight with which Harry sprang after his uncle up the *rigging* of the coach, as he called it, and seated himself

* Modern Traveller, Vol. III. page 108.

upon the top, to keep, as he said, a good *look-out*, that they might drop anchor in the right place. Eager and anxious was that look-out, as they drew near to Coventry; and when he beheld the three spires, he declared he had never seen anything half so beautiful since he lost sight of them.

The sun shone clear and bright as the coach dashed along the well-known streets; and Harry had scarcely patience to keep his seat till they drew up at the coach-office in High street, when telling his uncle he must leave him to see to the cargo, he sprang away and felt unwilling even to shake hands with his old friend, the carrier, who was waiting at the office for parcels, and the

orange-man, whom he met in the street. Harry felt as if his first words and first look ought to have been for his parents and Fanny ; but he had not forgotten either of the others, having brought the orange-man some fine cocoa-nuts to help to furnish his cart, and the carrier a couple of large silk-handkerchiefs to tie round his neck, when he was *cruising* about in cold weather. At length he reached the shop door. Fanny was standing behind the counter ; for a moment he was startled, and could scarcely believe the womanly-looking girl before him, with a cap and high dress, could be the child for whom he had so lately gathered flowers, begged oranges, and opened gates. Fanny, however,

with an exclamation of delight, which drew both Martha and her husband from the little back-room where they were sitting, hastened forwards to meet him ; and as soon as Harry could steer his way through the rocks and straits, formed by pastry and confectionery, and which, he laughingly said, were quite as difficult to avoid as the sand-banks of Hoogly, he found himself in the arms of his father and mother.

Joyful was the welcome given to the young sailor ; and as his parents gazed upon his happy, healthy countenance, they felt he was in the situation of life best suited to him ; and no longer were doubtful whether they ought to have let him go. His uncle did indeed prove a true friend

to him, teaching him, that whilst he learnt to be a good sailor, there was a still higher mark for him to aim at, that of being a good Christian, and there was a blessing bestowed upon his words. Harry profited by them, and increased in true wisdom as he advanced in years. But I must not jump so hastily over his first return to his home, to which he did not come without many proofs of his affection, and of his remembrance of those he had left behind, whilst on a far-off shore. Little presents were brought for each of his early friends; but what caused the most general pleasure, was a journal, which he had kept, of all he had seen and done at sea and on shore; this was

a constant source of interest and amusement, and was a cherished volume, when he was again, as he said, gone to write another.

The second parting was less painful than the first ; he had been out and returned in safety, and his friends felt a more assured reliance on the kindness of Providence.

Upon each return of Harry to his happy home, one day at least, (and it was a day of delight to all parties,) was given to visiting the widow and John, and the family of Fanny ; the garden also, and the lane, as well as other places and persons in the village, where they had excited so much interest, and passed so many both happy and anxious hours.

Those from the village, likewise, were always welcome guests at the shop in the town, where Martha and her husband felt that their thankfulness to the Giver of all Good could not be better proved than by shewing gratitude to those who had befriended them in their time of need.

The humble subjects of my tale continued to prosper in their quiet path of happy industry. Fanny indeed became a daughter to the Hands; whilst the conduct of their son was a constant source of satisfaction to them. Often did Martha think of the CROOKED SIXPENCE, and bless her God for having bestowed such happy dispositions on her child, with that steady, persevering activity which had been the means, under

Providence, of aiding them at the hour of their deepest distress, and of assisting to raise them from the lowest poverty to their present state of comfort and enjoyment.

FINIS.







